SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
NEWS RELEASE

SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
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Space Systems Command successfully launches U.S. Space Force (USSF)-12 mission

CAPE CANAVERAL SPACE FORCE STATION, Fla. – After a 24-hour postponement due to inclement weather, Space Systems Command (SSC) and its mission partners successfully launched the United States Space Force (USSF)-12 mission aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V 541 rocket, containing the Wide Field of View (WFOV) Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO) Testbed and USSF-12 Ring satellites, today at 7:15 p.m. EDT (4:15 p.m. PDT) from Space Launch Complex (SLC)-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.

"USSF-12's successful launch is a remarkable achievement for the entire team," said Col. Brian Denaro, SSC program executive officer for Space Sensing. "This mission was a successful joint endeavor between SSC, NASA, and industry partners to advance Overhead Persistent Infrared (OPIR) technologies and concept of operations (CONOPS) through on-orbit demonstration of new materials and techniques. It's the perfect example of how SSC is collaboratively leaning forward to bring exciting new space capabilities to the USSF and our mission partners."

The co-primary space vehicle, SSC's WFOV GEO Testbed, was designed to push the art of the possible across several technologies:

- The first in its class of sensor sensitivity across total field of view (Can track dim targets over large areas, improving worldwide coverage, in support of missile-warning architecture)
- Pathfinding Space Force process for new sensor operationalization and Integrated Tactical Warning/Attack Assessment (ITW/AA) certification

With the ability to monitor up to one-third of the Earth's surface simultaneously, SSC's WFOV GEO will also advance our target identification and characterization capabilities; an important part of the integrated missile warning, tracking and defense (MW/MT/MD) architecture in which SSC is partnering with the Space Development Agency (SDA) and the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). This will enable the warfighter to rapidly identify, characterize, track, and defeat missile threats from near-peer adversaries. This prototype provides critical and foundational test, concept of operations, engineering, and risk reduction for the future missile warning, tracking, and defense space architecture.

The other co-prime space vehicle, the DoD Space Test Program (STP)'s USSF-12 Ring, is part of Northrop Grumman's ESPAStar product line which provides modular, flexible features. When combined with available launch opportunities, Northrop Grumman's ESPAStar product line creates a "freight train to space" for experiments and prototypes in geosynchronous Earth orbit.

The STP executes the annual DoD Space Experiments Review Board (SERB) process and consolidates requirements from the Science and Technology (S&T) community. STP designs and

executes missions to maximize launch mass to orbit while offering innovative, agile, and affordable solutions for government, commercial, and international partners. STP experiments provide cutting-edge technology validation and accelerate space capability architectures prior to operational use. Following a successful USSF-12 launch, STP will have completed 291 missions and provided space access for 636 DoD experiments.

Tonight's launch marked the 92nd National Security Space Launch, and the 36th Atlas V launch from SLC-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. This is the sixth launch of an Atlas V with the new Northrop Grumman-built Graphite Epoxy Motor (GEM)-63 strap on solid rocket boosters, and a preview of the larger GEM 63XL boosters that will be used on ULA's future Vulcan Centaur launch vehicles.

"This launch was successful due to the outstanding partnership between government, industry, and mission partners. This history-making and complex endeavor exemplifies SSC's commitment to pursuing new, innovative ways of delivering reliable, responsive, and leading-edge space capabilities to the Space Force, DoD, and, ultimately, the warfighter," said Col. Erin Gulden, SSC's senior materiel leader, Launch Execution Acquisition Delta and USSF-12 mission director. "This collaborative mission continues our satellite, launch, and ground technology innovations, enhances our new system developments, and forges stronger partnerships across our space industrial base, which enables the U.S. to remain competitive across the space domain."

Space Systems Command, headquartered at Los Angeles Air Force Base in El Segundo, California, is the U.S. Space Force field command responsible for rapidly developing, acquiring, equipping space capabilities. SSC mission capability areas include launch acquisition and

operations, communications and positioning, navigation and timing (PNT), space sensing, battle management command, control and communications (BMC3), and space domain awareness & combat power.

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Interested media representatives may submit questions regarding this topic by sending an e-mail to sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil

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